

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The protecting element includes an NPN transistor having an emitter connected to an input/output terminal and a collector and a base connected to a ground terminal. The input/output terminal has the possibility of receiving a surge voltage. The input/output terminal, which may be referred to as a pad, is connected to a semiconductor integrated circuit IC to be protected against the surge voltage. The arrangement of the semiconductor integrated circuit IC is not limited to a specific one.